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AN ITEM OF APPAREL

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to clothing and more particular to jackets.

## 5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention seeks to provide an improved article of clothing.

There is thus provided in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention an article of upper-body clothing including shell fabric defining a body to which are attached sleeves, and between the body and the sleeves exists another 10 instrument, preferably made of fabric, as a medium between the sleeve or the sleeve lining, and the body or body lining as applicable. Preferably, the instrument between the sleeves and the body enables an improved functionality or design of the garment. In one configuration described herein, ventilated bands or stretchable bands or stretchable ventilating bands underlying the fabric in regions of the body-sleeve seams. Preferably, 15 the stretchable ventilating bands are attached between lining of the body and lining of the sleeve. Additionally, at least in an underarm region the ventilating bands are not overlaid by lining, thus providing a high degree of ventilation through the fabric. Alternatively or additionally the stretchable ventilating band is formed of a resilient fiber.

20 In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention the stretchable ventilating band is formed to be relatively broad adjacent the top of the shoulder and to taper therefrom to be relatively narrow in the underarm region. Preferably, one edge of the stretchable ventilating band is joined to a corresponding edge of the body lining, while an opposite edge of the band is joined to a corresponding edge

of the sleeve lining and to the seam of the fabric at which the fabric of the sleeve is joined to the fabric of the body. Additionally, the stretchable ventilating band is not joined to a shoulder pad, underlying the fabric of the body and is not joined to the fabric other than at the seam.

5                   There is also provided in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention an article of upper-body clothing including shell fabric defining a body to which are attached sleeves along circumferential body-sleeve seams, and at least one resiliently stretchable portion, underlying the fabric in regions of the circumferential body-sleeve seams and extending along the regions of the circumferential body-sleeve seams along at least one quarter of an azimuthal extent thereof. Alternatively, the resiliently stretchable portion extends along the regions of the circumferential body-sleeve seams along at least one half of the azimuthal extent thereof. Alternatively or additionally, the resiliently stretchable portion extends along the regions of the circumferential body-sleeve seams along all of the azimuthal extent thereof.

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There is also provided in accordance with yet another preferred embodiment of the present invention an article of upper-body clothing including shell fabric defining a body to which are attached sleeves along circumferential body-sleeve seams, and at least one resiliently stretchable portion, underlying the fabric in regions of the circumferential body-sleeve seams and extending along the regions of the circumferential body-sleeve seams along an underarm region thereof.

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There is further provided in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention an article of upper-body clothing including shell fabric defining a body to which are attached sleeves along circumferential body-sleeve

seams, and at least one resiliently stretchable portion, underlying the fabric in regions of the circumferential body-sleeve seams and extending from the underarm region upwards partially towards the shoulder and extending along the front and back region of the circumferential body-sleeve seams.

5 In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention the resiliently stretchable portion is a ventilating portion. Additionally, the resiliently stretchable portion is attached between lining of the body and lining of the sleeve.

In accordance with yet another preferred embodiment of the present invention at least in an underarm region the resiliently stretchable portion is not overlaid 10 by lining, thus providing a high degree of ventilation through the fabric. Preferably, the resiliently stretchable portion is formed of a resilient fiber. Additionally, the resiliently stretchable portion is formed to be relatively broad adjacent a top of the shoulder and to taper therefrom to be relatively narrow in the underarm region.

In accordance with yet another preferred embodiment of the present 15 invention one edge of the resiliently stretchable portion is joined to a corresponding edge of the body lining, while an opposite edge of the portion is joined to a corresponding edge of the sleeve lining and to the seam of the fabric at which the fabric of the sleeve is joined to the fabric of the body. Preferably, the resiliently stretchable portion is not joined to a shoulder pad, underlying the fabric of the body and is not joined to the fabric 20 other than at the seam.

There is further provided in accordance with still another preferred embodiment of the present invention an article of upper-body clothing including shell fabric defining a body to which are attached sleeves along body-sleeve seams, a body lining attached to the body, a sleeve lining attached to the sleeves, and ventilating

portions underlying the fabric in regions of the body-sleeve seams and attached between the body lining and the sleeve lining, wherein the ventilating bands are formed of a fabric which allows for a higher degree of ventilation through the fabric than the body lining and the sleeve lining.

5                   In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention at least in an underarm region the ventilating portions are not overlaid by lining, thus providing a high degree of ventilation through the shell fabric. Additionally, the ventilating portion is formed to be relatively broad adjacent the top of the shoulder and to taper therefrom to be relatively narrow in the underarm region. Preferably, one edge  
10                  10 of the ventilating portion is joined to a corresponding edge of the body lining, while an opposite edge of the portion is joined to a corresponding edge of the sleeve lining and to the seam of the shell fabric at which the shell fabric of the sleeve is joined to the shell fabric of the body. Alternatively, the ventilating portion is not joined to a shoulder pad, underlying the shell fabric of the body and is not joined to the shell fabric other than at  
15                  15 the seam.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from  
20                  20 the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is an illustration of a jacket constructed and operative in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 2A – 2D are respective back and top views of the jacket of Fig. 1 in a first and second operative orientation;

25                  25 Fig. 3 is an illustration of a jacket constructed and operative in accordance with

another preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 4A – 4D are respective back and top views of the jacket of Fig. 3 in a first and second operative orientation;

Fig. 5 is an illustration of a jacket constructed and operative in accordance with 5 yet another preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

Figs. 6A – 6D are respective back and top views of the jacket of Fig. 5 in a first and second operative orientation.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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Reference is now made to Fig. 1, which illustrates a jacket constructed and operative in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. As seen in Fig. 1, there is provided a jacket of conventional outer appearance having a jacket body 100 to which are attached sleeves 102.

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It is a particular feature of the present invention that, unseen from the outside, there is provided an instrument, preferably made of fabric, as a medium between the sleeve and the body. In the figure, the instrument is ventilating band 104. Stretchable circumferential ventilating band 104 is preferably attached between a lining of the jacket body, here designated by reference numeral 106 and lining of the sleeve, here designated 20 by reference numeral 108, around the sleeve or any portion of the circumferential seem between the sleeve and the body. It is a particular feature of the present invention that at least in an underarm region, designated by reference numeral 110, and preferably along its entire circumference, generally the ventilating band 104 is not overlaid by lining, thus providing a high degree of ventilation through the suiting fabric, as indicated

diagrammatically by arrows 112.

Turning specifically to the enlarged portion of Fig. 1, it is seen that in a preferred arrangement the stretchable circumferential ventilating band 104, which is preferably formed of an open knit or woven fabric formed of LYCRA R, is relatively 5 broad adjacent the top of the shoulder, as indicated at arrow 114 and tapers down to be relatively narrow in the underarm region, designated by reference numeral 110.

One circumferential edge of band 104, designated by reference numeral 116, is joined to a corresponding circumferential edge of jacket body lining 106, while an opposite circumferential edge of band 104, designated by reference numeral 118, is 10 joined to a corresponding circumferential edge of sleeve lining 108 and to the seam of the suiting fabric, designated by reference numeral 120, at which the suiting fabric of the sleeve 102 is joined to the suiting fabric of the jacket body 100. It is noted that preferably band 104 is not joined to a shoulder pad 122, underlying the suiting fabric of the jacket body 100 and is not joined to the suiting fabric other than at seam 120.

15 It is appreciated that in another embodiment of the present invention the stretchable circumferential ventilating band 104 may be replaced by a ventilating band formed of a fabric which allows for a higher degree of ventilation through the suiting fabric than the jacket body lining 106 and the sleeve lining 108.

Reference is now made to Figs. 2A – 2D, which illustrate another 20 important feature of the jacket described hereinabove, as illustrated in Fig. 1. For the sake of convenience and conciseness, identical reference numerals are used where applicable. It is seen from a consideration of Figs. 2A – 2D, that when the jacket of Fig. 1 is worn in a generally "arms-down" orientation, as shown in Figs. 2A and 2B, the width of the band 104 at the top back of the shoulder is X1 and the width of the band

104 at the forward underarm region is  $Y_1$ , where  $Y_1 < X_1$ .

When the wearer changes the orientation of his arms, so as to bring his arms together, as shown in Figs. 2C and 2D, the width of the band 104 at the top back of the shoulder becomes  $X_2$ , where  $X_2 < X_1$  and the width of the band 104 at the forward underarm region becomes  $Y_2$ , where  $Y_2 > Y_1$ . This illustrates the flexibility and resiliency of the structure of the jacket in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Reference is now made to Fig. 3, which illustrates a jacket constructed and operative in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

10 As seen in Fig. 3, the band 104, shown in Figs. 1-2D, can be replaced by a stretchable ventilating portion 130 which is preferably formed of an open knit or woven fabric formed of LYCRA R. Stretchable ventilating portion 130 is preferably attached between a lining of the jacket body, here designated by reference numeral 136 and a lining of the sleeve, here designated by reference numeral 138, in a region, designated by reference 15 numeral 139, extending from the underarm region 110 upwards partially towards the shoulder and encompassing a front and back region of a band, similar to the circumferential ventilating band 104 shown in Figs. 1-2D, but not extending completely to the shoulder.

It is appreciated that in another embodiment of the present invention the 20 stretchable ventilating portion 130 may be replaced by a ventilating band formed of a fabric which allows for a higher degree of ventilation through the suiting fabric than the jacket body lining 136 and the sleeve lining 138.

Reference is now made to Figs. 4A – 4D, which illustrate another important feature of the jacket described hereinabove, as illustrated in Fig. 3. It is seen

from a consideration of Figs. 4A – 4D, that when the jacket of Fig. 3 is worn in a generally "arms-down" orientation, as shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 130 at the top of region 139 is  $X_1$  and the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 130 at the bottom region of region 139 is  $Y_1$ , where

5  $Y_1 < X_1$ .

When the wearer changes the orientation of his arms, so as to bring his arms together, as shown in Figs. 4C and 4D, the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 130 at the top of region 139 becomes  $X_2$ , where  $X_2 < X_1$  and the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 130 at the bottom region of region 139 becomes  $Y_2$ ,

10 where  $Y_2 > Y_1$ . This illustrates the flexibility and resiliency of the structure of the jacket in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Reference is now made to Fig. 5, which illustrates a jacket constructed and operative in accordance with yet another preferred embodiment of the present invention. As seen in Fig. 5, the band 104, shown in Figs. 1-2D, can be replaced by a stretchable ventilating portion 140. Stretchable ventilating portion 140 is preferably attached between lining of the jacket body, here designated by reference numeral 146 and lining of the sleeve, here designated by reference numeral 148 in the underarm region 110.

It is appreciated that in another embodiment of the present invention the stretchable ventilating portion 140 may be replaced by a ventilating band formed of a fabric which allows for a higher degree of ventilation through the suiting fabric than the jacket body lining 146 and the sleeve lining 148.

Reference is now made to Figs. 6A – 6D, which illustrate another important feature of the jacket described hereinabove, as illustrated in Fig. 5. It is seen

from a consideration of Figs. 6A – 6D, that when the jacket of Fig. 5 is worn in a generally "arms-down" orientation, as shown in Figs. 6A and 6B, the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 140 at the top of the underarm region is  $X_1$  and the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 140 at the bottom underarm region is  $Y_1$ , where  
5  $Y_1 < X_1$ .

When the wearer changes the orientation of his arms, so as to bring his arms together, as shown in Figs. 6C and 6D, the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 140 at the top of the underarm region becomes  $X_2$ , where  $X_2 < X_1$  and the width of the stretchable ventilating portion 140 at the bottom underarm region becomes  $Y_2$ ,  
10 where  $Y_2 > Y_1$ . This illustrates the flexibility and resiliency of the structure of the jacket in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the present invention is not limited to what has been particularly shown and described hereinabove. Rather the scope of the present invention includes both combinations and  
15 subcombinations of the various features described hereinabove as well as modifications and variations thereof as would occur to a person of skill in the art upon reading the foregoing specification and which are not in the prior art.